

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 13, 2009, has been carefully studied. Claims 1-16 currently appear in this application. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims.

Interview Summary

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiners Griffin and Edwards for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of June 18, 2009. During that interview it was agreed that the cited art does not teach a cell culture insert having there a short spacer that is knob-shaped.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui, US 4,871,674.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4 and 16, and thus claims dependent therefrom, have been amended to recite that the shortest spacer (8) has a knob shape. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at page 5, last two lines, and Figure 3, which clearly shows that spacer 8 has the shape of a knob. There is nothing in Matsui that even suggests such a short spacer, nor that the short spacer has the shape of a knob.

Appln. No. 10/522,544
Amd. dated July 1, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2009

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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